

CV Student Podcasters in the Math Classroom: The Newara Connection

You may be walking in the hallways past Mr. Newara's classroom and routinely see groups of students sprawled out on the floors with shiny white laptop computers meticulously engaged in recording podcasts from scripts they created on math concepts.

They are part of a group of students in CV High School's Transitional program which helps our students make the transition from middle school to high school. Last year CV was awarded a Classrooms for the Future grant to put computer technology into our Transitional and High School Biology classrooms. Robert Newara was one of those teachers from the Transitional team who embraced this technology to enhance learning in his Math classroom.

His students work in collaborative groups to incorporate potentially difficult to master math concepts into brochures, podcasts, and video productions to share their efforts with their class to help reinforce these math curriculum concepts.



Mr. Newara reflects on using this technology in classroom strategies: "In an effort to use the technology at my fingertips, I simply choose to make movies with 'Order of Operations' and podcasts with 'Substitution'. It could've been the other way around—to me it didn't matter. I figured I'd just jump in and make it work. It's basically 'writing in the math classroom'. However, after they write about it, they just act it out or read it."

"With the technology, the kids are engaged, having fun, learning the math, and learning the technology"

--Robert Newara, CV Math Teacher

As far as how Robert assesses the value of his projects, he asserts, "So far I think it's working nicely. Sure we spend time on the technology, but if we didn't spend it on the technology, we'd spend it on something else. That something else may be boring for the kids—at least with the technology, the kids are engaged, having fun, learning the math, and learning the technology. It allows kids to be creative and express themselves in words - which isn't typical for a math class".

